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## **LUXURY HALONG BAY & MEKONG RIVER CRUISE FROM VIETNAM TO CAMBODIA**

**Trip Code:** TT3971KC

**Duration:** 16

**Destination:** Vietnam - Cambodia

**Travel Dates:** 2021

### **DAY 1 HANOI ARRIVAL**

On your arrival in Hanoi our local driver and tour guide will pick you up from the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

In the afternoon you will enjoy a Half Day City Tour of Hanoi visiting the Temple of Literature; Women's Museum; the infamous Hoa Loa Prison Museum & the Museum of Ethnology

### **DAY 2 HANOI - HAI PHONG – LAN HA BAY (B,L,D)**

After breakfast your transfer vehicle will collect you from your hotel in Hanoi and convey you to Hai Phong arriving around 11.30am.

You will be taken by our tender out onto the bay to board our luxurious craft, Era Cruise. You will be welcomed aboard and our crew will conduct a compulsory safety procedure session. You will then be free to check into your cabin, freshen up and take some time to look around the vessel or watch the magical landscape go by.

A special lunch of fresh seafood and an assortment of appetizing favorites will be served as we set sail for Lan Ha Bay, passing by Da Chong islet where you can see a lighthouse built by the French over 100 years ago. When lunch is about to finish, we'll enter through the Cua Van area to Lan Ha Bay (as part of Halong Bay). The area is surrounded by a lot extraordinary limestone karst landscapes. Guests can then explore the crystal clear waters of the bay and Ba Trai Dao beach by kayak and/or enjoy swimming.

Back on board the main boat we cruise to a position where we overnight.

From 5.30 - 6.30pm is Happy hour with a special drink menu (Buy one get another one for free) and we will hold our Vietnamese cooking demonstration. It is a great way to learn how to prepare delicious appetizers and we will guide you through the process.

Diner will be served in our restaurant. You will have free time until midnight to relax with an exotic cocktail or the bar has a wide range of wines, beers and liquors after a day on Bay. Other activities onboard include watching a documentary movie, squid fishing, ordering a Spa service or simply relax on our roof top deck under the cover of a star filled sky.

### **DAY 3 VIET HAI VILLAGE - BA HAM LAKE (B,L,D)**

Early birds are welcome to attend sunrise Tai Chi on our upper deck or enjoy a coffee or tea.

Enjoy a buffet breakfast with the best local coffee brand and freshly made fruit juices.

After breakfast we board our Era Day Boat will head to Viet Hai Village where you will take the bicycle trip along the village path and go through rain forests and a dark tunnel. Enjoy stunning scenery of rice fields on the way. Relax at the village then visit an ancient local house made from straw, mud, bamboo...you will have

chance to see the local life on a valley of the people. (An electric car service is available at an extra cost).

After a set menu lunch is served on our day boat you will have free time to kayak and/or swim at Ba Ham Lake area situated in the middle of a narrow, rectangular area, with the all four sides enclosed by vertical cliffs. (if the weather permit)

Back on board Era Cruise, take some time to freshen up, take a nap or just relax as we cruise to our overnight area. Witness one of the most brilliant sunsets you will ever see.

The bar opens for Happy Hour "Buy one get one free" and you can enjoy our cooking demonstration to discover our Vietnamese cuisine of traditional spring rolls.

A special dinner will be served offering you outstanding food and quality service. This evening is yours to enjoy one of the activities onboard or our bar is always open and is an ideal place to meet new people and share stories about your adventures.

#### **DAY 4 HA LONG BAY - HO CHI MINH CITY (B)**

The nicest time of the day on Lan Ha Bay is the morning. Head to the upper deck to participate in our daily Tai Chi sessions. Relax with an early morning cup of tea, coffee or juice anywhere you wish on the boat and watch the never ending miraculous scenery unfold before you.

A light breakfast will be served in our restaurant (pastries, tea, coffee) before you enjoy the last stage of your trip with a visit to Dark & Bright cave and islets by local rowing boats, with its wild and mysterious beauty in the middle of the World Heritage area.

Back to our main board to check out of your cabin as we draw closer to the mainland. After a final early brunch and a last goodbye from our crew you will board our tender and head back to the wharf where you will be met by our luxury van to transfer you to Hanoi.

On arrival you will be transferred to the airport for your domestic flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City then the rest of the day is free for you to explore Ho Chi Minh City.

#### **DAY 5 HO CHI MINH- BOARDING RV INDOCHINE II (B,L,D)**

Ho Chi Minh City was built by the French in 1859, at the beginning of the colonial era and the town has retained some of its French atmosphere.

In the afternoon we have a tour of the city to visit the Reunification palace, Notre Dame cathedral and the Central Post office.

After our tour we will board our luxury cruise vessel, RV Indochine II and have a welcome cocktail and dinner. Overnight on board in Ho Chi Minh City port.

#### **DAY 6 HO CHI MINH CITY TOUR – CHAO GAO (B,L,D)**

After breakfast, we cruise to Cholon, whose name means "Great market", a district crawling with people, where almost half the population of the city lives and where trade reigns supreme. We visit the market and the Thien Hau Pagoda, dedicated to the Goddess of the Sea.

Lunch is served onboard before our afternoon visit to the National History museum then a visit to a lacquer ware factory.

After our return on board we set sail for the navigation channel of Chao Gao.

Dinner and overnight is on board RC Indochine II. We moor for the night at Nha Be.

#### **DAY 7 CHO GAO - MY THO - VINH LONG - CAI BE - SA DEC (B,L,D)**

Very early this morning we continue our cruise to My Tho along the magnificent Chao Gao Canal, which passes from the Saigon River to the Mekong Delta. The Delta is made up of four main arms and thousands of canals, both large and small.

We have breakfast as we arrive in My Tho. The town is named after the river My Tho which means “beautiful reed”, and it is peaceful and prosperous. Known for its many vegetable gardens, and its fruit orchards, the climate here is hot and pleasant all year long. The surrounding countryside includes one of the most luxuriant gardens in Vietnam with coconut, banana, mango and longan trees. We visit My Tho islands in small boats. Along the maze that makes up the network of small canals, pretty country villages appear and we see the local craftsmen at work.

We return on board for lunch and continue our cruise to Vinh Long and Cai Be. The town is located in the middle of the delta region, between two arms of the Mekong. We set off in small boats through the arroyos and gardens which lead to Cai Be's colonial church.

Vinh Long, a land made rich by alluvium, is the country of mandarins and oranges. All of life here is organised around the water and we see houses built on stilts and hundreds of small boats that criss-cross in all directions.

We then set sail for Sac Dec where dinner will be served onboard and we will overnight at our mooring point.

## **DAY 8 SA DEC (B,L,D)**

Early this morning we visit Sa Dec, famous for its horticulture and known as the “Garden of the Cochin Chine” in colonial times. We have a tour of the small town where a few colonial mansions are still in existence. Discover the local market and visit the former dwelling place of Huynh Thuy Le, former lover of the French novelist Marguerite Duras who spent part of her childhood in Sa Dec.

We return on board for a hearty breakfast and continue our cruise to Chau Doc, a town at the border between Cambodia and Vietnam which became part of Vietnamese territory some 300 years ago.

Lunch is on board as we cruise to Chau Doc arriving in the early afternoon. Situated in the heart of a gigantic grid of rice fields, the city of Chau Doc embraces both banks of the Mekong and the floating farms overspill into the waters. Chau Doc is a very prosperous town which developed around fishing and farming. Inside the town, a few colonial buildings with their old fashioned charm still remain. The market which surrounds them is the vibrant heart of the city and a multitude of colours.

We will be transferred by small boats to visit a Cham village, a village of weavers and fish farms.

Enjoy dinner and our overnight stop in Chau Doc.

## **DAY 9 CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH (B,L,D)**

We spend the day afloat today, first heading for the Cambodian border, where we complete customs during the morning and continue our journey.

Lunch and dinner are taken on board as we arrive, towards the end of the day, in Phnom Penh.

After dinner we have a “tuk tuk” trip, a motorised tricycle which is the traditional mode of transport in Phnom Penh.

We moor for the night in the port of Phnom Penh.

## **DAY 10 PHNOM PENH (B,L,D)**

Founded in 1434, the capital of Cambodia retains much of its colonial charm, thanks to the rehabilitation of part of its architectural heritage. We visit the Silver Pagoda, constructed of wood in 1892 then rebuilt in 1962, and the Royal palace, symbolic heart of the nation and one of the finest examples of Cambodian architecture in classical Khmer style.

Then we visit the National museum, housing the Fine Arts museum, built in 1917 by the French in traditional Khmer architectural style.

We have lunch in a local restaurant and this afternoon we have the option to visit the Tuol Svay Prey S21 school, former centre of detention, torture and execution used by the Khmer Rouge during the civil war.

There is free time in the “Central Market” - crammed full with all types of businesses.

This evening we have a Apsara dance show by student dancers and musicians.

Dinner and overnight on board, in the port of Phnom Penh.

## **DAY 11                      KOH CHEN - KAMPONG TRALACH - KAMPONG CHHNANG (B,L,D)**

We set sail early morning and have breakfast on board before we visit Koh Chen, a small village where the inhabitants are experts in silverwork and copper work. Here are made the ornaments and decorations used during traditional ceremonies in the pagoda or for weddings.

Visit the private school of Mr. Thom Umson, a bright French teacher.

We have lunch on board and arrive in Kampong Tralach to visit the beautiful Vihara of the Wat Kampong Tarlach Leu Pagoda.

We cross through the village of Kampong Tralach by oxcart to reach the pagoda on a small path running perpendicular to the river amidst a magnificent landscape of rice fields. The Vihara dates back to the beginning of last century and has many magnificent wall paintings which are starting to suffer from the effects of time. Completely isolated in the middle of the rice fields, the pagoda is quite unassuming and does not receive many visitors, so its isolation makes it a truly magnificent spot.

We return on board and continue our cruise to Kampong Chhnang.  
Dinner onboard and we moor for our overnight stop.

## **DAY 12                      KAMPONG CHHNANG - LAKE TONLE (B,L,D)**

We have breakfast on board and then visit Kampong Chhnang. Located some 90km from Phnom Penh, the town of Kampong Chhnang is one of the largest fishing ports on the Tonle Sap. Here they also have many fish farms. The region is best known for its fine traditional pottery which is a major source of revenue for the entire country, and the region's very name Kampong Chhnang means “the port of the pottery” in Khmer.

We visit a traditional grove of palm trees and taste some palm sugar before a visit to a traditional pottery. Next we visit a floating village using small local boats. All the buildings here are afloat - the school, the shops and so on, and life develops along the canal network.

We return on board for lunch then continue our cruise to lake Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in southeast Asia which forms the heart of the hydraulic system of the Mekong.

Tonight we have a final cocktail and gala dinner.

Our overnight stop is on Lake Tonle.

### **DAY 13 SIEM REAP – DISEMBARK RV INDOCHINE II (B)**

We spend the morning cruising, taking breakfast on board.

Disembark the cruise at noon. Our driver will transfer you to your hotel in Siem Reap.

The afternoon is free for you to enjoy.

### **DAY 14 SIEM REAP- ANGKOR TOUR & ANGKOR THOM (B,L)**

After breakfast you will visit the Southern Gate of Angkor Thom, the famous Bayon, Baphuon, and Phimeanakas temples, plus Terraces of the Elephant and Leper King.

Lunch will be at a famous local restaurant.

In the afternoon visit Ta Prohm then explore the Angkor Wat temple, the 7th Wonder of the Ancient World.

You will climb up to Bakheng Hill to watch the sunset over Angkor Wat and the surrounding area before returning to our hotel.

### **DAY 15 SIEM REAP- DEPARTURE (B)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel today before we transfer you to the airport for your flight home.

### **DAY**

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